



## Open Statement on Electricity in Africa

More than 550 million people in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to electricity. In 30 African countries, endemic power shortages are a way of life. Without a reliable power supply, women give birth in under-equipped hospitals, children's vaccines requiring refrigeration are at risk, students are unable to study after dark and routine business transactions become extremely difficult.

One in five Africans cites infrastructure – including electricity – as their most pressing concern. Seven out of 10 business leaders across the region say the lack of affordable and reliable power is one of the most important constraints to growth. The absence of modern energy access limits GDP growth in sub-Saharan Africa by an estimated 2 to 5% each year. With 14 million sub-Saharan Africans entering the workforce annually, government leaders are facing the political imperative to address critical and growing energy demands.

The good news is sustainable solutions to address Africa's energy poverty can deliver immediate progress as Africa has yet to harness the majority of its energy potential from renewables and natural gas. Countries are increasingly taking the lead with bold plans to develop these resources for their national benefit. We support the more than two dozen African nations that have committed to the goal of providing universal energy access by 2030, so that people living in rural and urban areas are lifted out of poverty and can benefit from strong economic growth. We encourage catalytic support from the U.S. government and private sector in order to achieve this large scale increase in energy access. Collectively, this partnership can help provide millions of people access to modern energy which, in turn, will energize progress in all areas of human development and self-sufficiency on the continent.

Signed,

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